



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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ALASKAN GAME REGULATIONS SET

Changes in the Alaska Game Law regulations for hunting, sport fishing, and trapping in the Territory were announced today by Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay.

The most significant changes, effective July 1 for the 1955-56 season, are as follows:

For the first time, bow and arrow hunting will be permitted for all game species on which seasons are prescribed.

The deer season on Kodiak Island will be lengthened (Aug. 20-Sept. 30) to allow greater harvest because of increasing deer populations there. Prince William Sound will have an earlier deer season (Aug. 20-Nov. 22) to conform with the season in Southeastern Alaska. The taking of a limited number of antlerless deer in Southeastern Alaska will be permitted in order to keep the deer population down to the number that can be supported on the winter range.

The season for moose- and caribou-hunting will be lengthened (dates varying according to areas) due to a general increase in the populations of these animals. The regulations will be relaxed to permit the taking of two caribou, rather than one, in the area south of the Alaska Range and east of the Alaska Railroad.

An early 15-day season (Sept. 1-15) for elk on Afognak Island has been set, to permit the taking of a number of surplus bulls.

An earlier brown- and grizzly-bear season (Aug. 20-June 20) for inland areas (north of 61° N. latitude) will permit the taking of these animals during the mountain-sheep season. Previously, the two seasons were not concurrent. The bag limit on brown and grizzly bear will be reduced from two to one in the westward areas where these animals are extremely vulnerable to modern open-country hunting methods. A season limit on black bear will now apply equally to resident and non-resident hunters. This rule is designed to prevent excessive killing of these animals by residents of the Territory who were previously permitted to take unlimited numbers. The nonresident bag limit on polar bear will be reduced from three to one per season, due to increased hunting pressure by nonresidents.

The daily bag limit on ptarmigan will be increased from 15 to 20.

Hunting within 100 feet of the centerline of any public highway will not be permitted. Previously the distance was 33 feet in some areas and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in others.

The regulations for sport fishing will adjust limits and seasons to provide common dates in broader areas (having comparable game-fish populations) and will reduce special regulations to a minimum.

The trapping regulations applicable to mink, marten, land otter, fox, lynx, and weasel (ermine) will now include wolverine among the fur animals for which seasons are prescribed. Provisions are made for the control of wolverine found damaging property. Seasons and limits for the trapping of other animals in this group will be adjusted where necessary to allow a reasonable harvest consistent with the fur-animal populations.

A later opening date (Jan. 1) will be prescribed for the muskrat-trapping season to avoid the taking of these animals when skins are unprime and of little value.

A 31-day season (April 15-May 15) will be prescribed for the trapping of beaver in Fur District 1 where there has been a closed season for several years. In other fur districts the season limits on beaver will be generally increased.

Printed copies of the regulations, as amended, will be available soon at the Alaska headquarters of the Fish and Wildlife Service in Juneau or from local enforcement officers throughout the Territory.

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